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Application Serial No. 10/576,006
Reply to office action of September 3, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-4773

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-8 are amended. No new matter has been added.

The examiner is thanked for conducting a telephonic interview on October 1, 2008 at 10:00 am eastern time to discuss the faxed proposed claim 1 amendment sent October 1, 2008. The examiner agreed that the proposed claim amendment for the receiving unit transmitting a signal to the radiating unit without being blocked is not taught by Karabinis. Accordingly, Karabinis fails to teach or disclose amended claim 1, which recites inter alia: **--wherein the receiving unit transmits the amplified received signal to the radiating unit without being blocked--**.

In the office action (page 2), claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6. Claims 1-9 have been amended to eliminate the "means" wording. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 are now in compliance. Therefore, withdrawal of the aforementioned rejection is respectfully requested.

In the office action (page 2), claims 1-5, and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,937,332 (Karabinis).

The applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the presently claimed invention and to traverse the examiner's rejection.

Claim 1 now recites, inter alia:

--wherein the receiving unit transmits the amplified received signal to the radiating unit without being blocked--.

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Support for these limitations can be found at least in the specification at page 4, line 24 to page 5, line 19 and FIGs. 3 and 4).

As agreed by the examiner, Karabinis does not teach or disclose this limitation of the presently claimed invention.

In contrast, Karabinis relates to Satellite telecommunications where **repeaters** are provided which receive, amplify, and locally retransmit the downlink signal received from a satellite thereby increasing the effective downlink margin in the vicinity of the satellite telecommunications repeaters and allowing an **increase** penetration of uplink and downlink signals into buildings, foliage, transportation vehicles, and other objects which can **reduce link margin** (Karabinis abstract; col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 5; and FIG. 2). That is, because Karabinis provides a method to increase penetration of uplink and downlink signals, Karabinis is admitting that there are times when a signal will be blocked where the present invention overcomes the limitation.

In contradistinction, FIG. 2 of the present invention discloses:

"the satellite repeater 200 includes a receiving block 210 provided with a receiving antenna 212 and an amplifier 214, a **feeding line 220** and a **transmitting antenna 230**.

The receiving block 210 is installed **outside** of a shadow area where a line of sight to a satellite is secured and the transmitting antenna **230 is installed inside of the shadow area. The receiving block 210 and the transmitting antenna 230 are electrically connected through the feeding line 220.**

The receiving block 210 directly receives a signal from the satellite through the receiving antenna 212 which is a microstrip patch array antenna. The received signal is amplified by the amplifier 214 for improving a signal-to-noise ratio and amplifying an amplitude of the receiving signal. The amplified signal is transmitted to the transmitting antenna 230 through the **feeding line 220** and finally radiated to the mobile station in the shadow area by the transmitting antenna 230",

(specification page 4, line 24 to page 5, line 19; **emphasis added**).

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Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to provide additional limitations for further clarifying the presently claimed invention. Claim 1 also recites: --wherein the shadow area is blocked from receiving the signal from the receiving unit--.

Nowhere does Karabinis teach or disclose this limitation.

In contrast, Karabinis discloses "repeaters are used to receive, amplify, and locally retransmit the downlink signal received from a satellite" (Karabinis page 3, lines 1-2). Therefore, because Karabinis uses repeaters (i.e.; receiving units), where any number of repeaters can be used, Karabinis can not disclose claim 1 limitation of the present invention that recites inter alia: --wherein the shadow area is blocked from receiving the signal from the receiving unit--.

In contradistinction, the present invention discloses that the signal is blocked in the shadow area such that a feeding line must be used from the receiving unit for feeding the signal to the radiating unit in the shadow area (specification page 6, lines 5-10 and lines 19-20).

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that for these above reasons Karabinis does not teach or disclose amended 1 of the present invention, that recites inter alia, --wherein the receiving unit transmits the amplified received signal to the radiating unit when the transmitted amplified signal is impeded--, and --wherein the shadow area is blocked from receiving the signal from the receiving unit--, because Karabinis increases signal strength **only** if a signal is not blocked. Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance over Karabinis.

As to claims 2-5 and 7-8, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are

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allowable at least since they depend from claim 1, which is now considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons above.

In the office action (page 2), claims 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over description of Karabinis.

As to claims 6 and 9, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least since they depend from claim 1, which is now considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons above.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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